

23 April 1970

Mr. Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

Dear Larry,

I have already spoken to you to express my pleasure at your more than deserved receipt of a National Civil Service League Career Service Award but wanted to transmit these sentiments a trifle more formally in writing because, to my great regret, Ruth and I will not be able to attend the dinner and offer our warm congratulations to you in person on that occasion.

Unfortunately, 8 May is my son Christopher's birthday, and he is already burbling with anticipation over the family celebration long planned for that evening. In our family, birthdays of the children are traditionally celebrated with some solemnity since via this device, each child has at least one day out of the year when things center around him (Catherine will soon join in this ritual, but she is still too young to grasp it). I am afraid Christopher, at seven, would find it very hard to understand a shift in the day on which his celebration occurred or parental absence therefrom.

The League's award is a signal honor for any civil servant to receive and is a most fitting tangible recognition of your many personal contributions to this Agency, the nation, and the legal structure through which both manage their complementary affairs. Furthermore, it is always gratifying to see merited recognition tendered a valued and admired colleague and personal friend. I know the dinner will be a splendid occasion and wish we could be there to share it with you. Ruth and I will certainly be with you in spirit as you walk to the center of the dias even though we will not be able to be physically present and applauding from a table below.

As Always,